

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 14870 01 OF 02 171844Z

53

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 SIL-01 HEW-08 DRC-01 /145 W

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R 171823Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6539

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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USMISSION GENEVA

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 14870

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK, ICFTU, XG

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE DISCUSSED

REF: GENEVA'S 6334

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ALAN HARGREAVES, HEAD OF THE TUC INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, AND CYRIL PLANT, UK WORKER DELEGATE, DISCUSSED WITH US SEPARATELY THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 19 IN GENEVA. EACH DESCRIBED THE CONFERENCE IN A SOMEWHAT SHARPLY DIFFERENT TONE.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 14870 01 OF 02 171844Z

END SUMMARY

2. HARGREAVES CONFIRMED THAT ALBERT HEYER, HEAD OF THE ICFTU'S GENEVA OFFICE (REFTEL), IS SENDING OUT INVITATIONS TO ALL EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE IN GREECE, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. HARGREAVES WAS ALSO AT PAINS TO EMPHASIZE THAT HEYER IS DOING SO NOT ON BEHALF OF THE ICFTU, BUT RATHER ON BEHALF OF THE FOUR WORKER MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY (MUHR, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, PLANT, UNITED KINGDOM, PIMENOV, USSR, AND SUNDE, NORWAY.)

3. HARGREAVES INDICATED THAT THE TUC DELEGATION "ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT INTENDED THAT WAY" WILL BE RATHER LARGE. IN ADDITION TO HIMSELF, ALF ALLEN, TUC PRESIDENT, T. PARRY, HEAD OF THE FIREMEN'S UNION AND MEMBER OF THE TUC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE TUC CONTINGENT WILL ALSO INCLUDE CYRIL PLANT, UK WORKER DELEGATE, AS WELL AS JACK JONES, CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE, AND LEN MURRAY, TUC GENERAL SECRETARY, SINCE THE LAST THREE NAMED WILL BE IN GENEVA AT THAT TIME FOR THE ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE.

4. HARGREAVES SAID THAT WHILE THERE IS NO FIXED AGENDA AT THIS POINT, THE CONFEREES ARE LIKELY TO DISCUSS SOME "FUTURE POSSIBLE LINES OF ACTION" INCLUDING SUCH MATTERS AS EXCHANGES OF DELEGATION AND CERTAIN TECHNICAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND POSSIBLY A SECOND TRADE UNION CONFERENCE (WHICH SHOULD BE "AS FAR AWAY FROM GENEVA AS POSSIBLE.") HE ALSO BELIEVES THE JANUARY 19 PARTICIPANTS WILL SET UP A CONTINUING COMMITTEE. HARGREAVES DESCRIBED THE JANUARY 19 MEETING AS A VERY "SHORT STEP" TO GREATER EAST-WEST COOPERATION BUT THAT "THERE WAS A VERY LONG WAY TO GO."

5. CYRIL PLANT, ON THE OTHER HAND, VIEWS THE CONFERENCE IN A MUCH MORE CRITICAL WAY THAN DOES HARGREAVES.

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PAGE 03 LONDON 14870 01 OF 02 171844Z

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PAGE 01 LONDON 14870 02 OF 02 171843Z

53

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 14870

HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET TRADE UNION LEADERS WILL USE THE CONFERENCE AS A MAJOR POLITICAL PLATFORM. HE NOTED THAT THEY HAD ATTEMPTED TO GET AN AGREEMENT ON A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE RATHER THAN A SINGLE DAY, BUT WERE REBUFFED.

6. PLANT VIEWS THE CONFERENCE AS PART OF A MOVEMENT TO BRING THE ICFTU AND THE WFTU TOGETHER. WHILE ICFTU-WFTU RELATIONS ARE NOT ON THE AGENDA - WHICH WILL BE FORMULATED IN GENEVA BEFORE THE CONFERENCE OPENS - LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 LONDON 14870 02 OF 02 171843Z

"ICFTU AFFILIATES ARE TALKING ABOUT IT IN DARK CORNERS." PLANT EXPECTS SHELEPIN TO MAKE A MAJOR

STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND EUROPEAN SECURITY. HE ADDS THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WILL DECIDE TO CALL A SECOND CONFERENCE WHICH, HE BETS, WILL BE HELD IN MOSCOW.

7. EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) - DURING OUR CONVERSATION WITH HARGREAVES, HE SAID HE BELIEVES THAT THE ISSUE OF WCL AFFILIATES JOINING THE ETUC CANNOT NOW BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE NEXT ETUC CONGRESS IN MAY. HE NOTED THAT IMPEDIMENTS TO AFFILIATION OF CHRISTIAN UNIONS CONTINUE TO EXIST IN BELGIUM AND FRANCE, AND THAT A CONGRESS SETTING IS NEEDED IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS. HARGREAVES VOICED STRONG DISSATISFACTION WITH THE CURRENT STEWARDSHIP OF ETUC GENERAL SECRETARY THEO RASSCHAERT AND SUGGESTED THAT THE TUC WAS VERY RELUCTANT TO "PUT ANY MONEY INTO THAT ORGANIZATION WHILE RASSCHAERT IS STILL THERE." (HE SUGGESTED FACETIOUSLY THAT A JOB IN THE EC COMMISSION SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR RASSCHAERT.)

SOHM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EAST WEST TRADE, MEMBERSHIP, MEETINGS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, MEETING DELEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** mcintyresh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** GENEVA'S 6334  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** mcintyresh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUL 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <17-Sep-2001 by mcintyresh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE DISCUSSED  
**TAGS:** ELAB, UK, XG, UR, ICFTU, ILO, WFTU, (HARGREAVES, ALAN), (HEYER, ALBERT), (PLANT, CYRIL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005